

7th and 8th Grade Social Studies Summer Assignment

Due: First Day of Classes September 2012

Questions: Email Emily Oliapuram, instructor, at evoliapuram@gmail.com

7th Grade Social Studies Summer Assignment

Part 1: Memory Sharing

Bring in a Photo that is important/significant to you. Please make sure that this is a photograph that you can leave at school for the year. Include a typed/neatly handwritten 1 – 2 paragraph explanation of what is happening in the photograph, what it says about you, why you chose this photo over others, and what makes it significant to you.

Part 2: Games

a. Interview an adult in your life to find out the game (not a video game!) they enjoyed playing most as a youngster. Ask them to:

1. Explain the game (how they played it, what it was called, the rules, how do you decide who won, how many participants it needed, where they played it, who could play it, what materials they needed in order to play the game) etc. In other words paint a picture, using words, that gives your audience an idea of what this is game all about from beginning to end.
2. Explain why they enjoyed the game so much.

b. Compare/contrast their favorite game to your favorite game (again no video games!) that you play(ed). Describe your favorite game in detail so your audience fully understands everything that goes into playing this game. (See #1) Make sure to explain why you like this game so much. What are the similarities and differences between these two games?

c. Do you think you would like to play the game the adult shared with you? Do you think they would like to play your game? Why or why not?

e. Sketch/print out images of both games.

This response should be a minimum of 250 words. Responses are preferably typed, though neatly handwritten work will also be accepted. Late project work is reduced a letter grade for each day it is late.

8th Grade:

Part 1: Bring in an artifact that encapsulates your summer vacation. In other words, bring in an object that really represents your experiences this summer. Make sure this is an item you can leave in school for at least 2 weeks.

Part 2: Heroes

History is full of the stories of heroes – those who are famous and those who have remained virtually unknown to a larger audience. You are to write a 250 – 500 word typed (or neatly handwritten) response on this topic which should address the following:

1. How do you define the term hero. In other words, what do you think makes someone a hero. Explain why. Who are some people you have studied that you consider heroes. Explain why.
2. Go the links on the bottom of this page and view some pictures of statues/monuments created to commemorate certain heroes. Why do you think that these people got to be commemorated in a statue/monument. Do you consider them heroes based on your definition of a hero? Why or why not?
3. Who is someone (or a group/ an ideal) you know/read about who you think deserves to have a statue created in their honor. Why? What makes them special? What would others learn from having the opportunity to learn this person/group's story? Where would you place this monument? Why?
4. Create a sketch of that statue with a plaque honoring this individual/group of people. What would it say? Explain why you would include this information in a 2 – 3 sentence caption.

Links to some Monuments/Statues in NYC:

http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-11-10/news/30384639_1_statue-monument-granite-base

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/history/veterans>

<http://www.centralparknyc.org/visit/things-to-see/south-end/balto.html>